

**In the Drawings:**

The first of the attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1a-b. This, sheet which includes Figs. 1a-b, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1a-b. In Fig. 1a, reference numeral 3 has been added. In Fig. 1b, the term "EBENE" has been replaced with "cut plane," reference numeral 2 has been moved, and an end wall 12 has been added. An annotated sheet indicating the above amendments has been provided.

The second of the attached sheets of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2d. This sheet, which includes Figs. 2a-d, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 2a-d. In Fig. 2d, the term "Schnitt" has been replaced with "cut line." An annotated sheet indicating the above amendment has been provided.

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REMARKS

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Claims 11, 13-16, 20-22, and 24 have been amended and claims 15-28 have been renumbered as claims 11-24. The Specification has been amended. The Figures have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 12, 17-19, and 23 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 11, 13-16, 20-22, and 24 remain pending in this application. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable.

**II. THE OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN**

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because of some informalities. (*See* 2/26/08 Office Action, p. 2). Specifically, the Examiner states that Fig. 1a requires reference numeral 3 to be added; the term "EBENE" from Fig. 1b should be amended to "cut-plane"; and the term "Schnitt B-B" from Fig. 2d should be amended to "cut-line." Figs. 1a, 1b, and 2d have been amended according to the Examiner's suggestions.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. (*See* 2/26/08 Office Action, p. 2). Specifically, the Examiner states that the figures must show "at least one of an end wall of the vehicle and a body of the vehicle," as recited in claim 24. Fig. 1b has been amended to show this feature by added an end wall 12. The Specification has been amended to address this new reference numeral. Specifically, paragraph [0043] has been amended to include the new reference numeral 12.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the drawings are allowable and the Examiner should withdraw the objection to the drawings.

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### III. THE OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

The Examiner has objected to the Specification because of some informalities. (See 2/26/08 Office Action, p. 3). Specifically, the Examiner states that paragraphs [0012] and [0019] should be deleted; paragraph [0027] should replace and incorrect use of a reference numeral; and paragraph [0031] should include a reference numeral. The Specification has been amended according to the Examiner's suggestions. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner should withdraw the objection to the specification.

### IV. THE OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

The Examiner has objected to the claims because the numbering of the claims is not in accordance with 37 CFR 1.126. (See 2/26/08 Office Action, p. 3). It appears that the Examiner has renumbered the former claims 15-28 to 11-24 for this Office Action. An amendment to the numbering of the claims has been included in this response according to the Examiner's suggestion.

The Examiner has objected to claim 13 because of an informality regarding a recitation of a Markush group. (See 2/26/08 Office Action, p. 4). Claim 13 has been amended according to the Examiner's suggestion.

The Examiner has advised the Applicants that if claim 17 were found to be allowable, claim 23 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75. (See 2/26/08 Office Action, p. 4). Claim 23 has been cancelled.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner should withdraw the objection to the claims.

**V. THE 35 U.S.C. § 112 REJECTION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN**

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. (See 2/26/08 Office Action, p. 4). Specifically, the Examiner states that claim 12 does not limit the subject of the preceding claim. Claim 12 has been cancelled.

**VI. THE 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) REJECTION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN**

Claims 11, 13, 15-16, 20-22, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,354,623 to Delmastro. (See 2/26/08 Office Action, p. 5)

Claim 11 has been amended to recite a control panel for an automotive vehicle comprising "a frame structure constructed from linear elements, areas of the frame structure which are delimited by the linear elements being sealed at least partially by plastic sheet elements, the areas being covered with a decorative layer, the sheet elements being connected to the linear elements by an integral material connection, the frame structure that is force-absorbing being directly connected to at least one of an end wall and a body of the vehicle, the frame structure being constructed such that a cross-member arranged between A-columns of the vehicle is dispensable." It is respectfully submitted that Delmastro does not disclose or suggest the amended recitation of claim 11. Specifically, in its entirety, Delmastro does not disclose or suggest "the areas being covered with a decorative layer," and "the frame structure that is force-absorbing being directly connected to at least one of an end wall and a body of the vehicle, the frame structure being constructed such that a cross-member arranged between A-columns of the vehicle is dispensable."

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is allowable and the Examiner should withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of this claim. Because claims 13 and 15 depend from and, therefore, include the limitations of claim 11, it is respectfully submitted that these

claims are also allowable.

Claim 16 has been amended to recite a method for manufacturing of a control panel for an automotive vehicle comprising “providing a frame structure constructed from linear elements, areas of the frame structure being delimited by linear elements being sealed at least partially by plastic sheet elements” and “covering the areas with a decorative layer,” “wherein the frame structure is constructed such that a cross-member arranged between the A-columns of the vehicle is dispensable and the frame structure is directly connected to at least one of an end wall and a body of the vehicle.” Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16 and all depending claims (claims 20-22) are also allowable for at least substantially similar reasons with reference to claim 11.

Claim 24 recites an automotive vehicle comprising “a control panel including a frame structure constructed from linear elements, areas of the frame structure which are delimited by the linear elements being sealed at least partially by sheet elements, the areas being covered with a decorative layer, the sheet elements being connected to the linear elements by an integral material connection, wherein the frame structure is directly connected of at least one of an end wall of the vehicle and a body of the vehicle and the frame structure being constructed such that a cross-member arranged between the A-columns of the vehicle is dispensable.” Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 24 is also allowable for at least substantially similar reasons with reference to claim 11.

**VII. THE 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN**

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Delmastro in view of U.S. Pat. No. 3,834,842 to Wada et al. (See 2/26/08 Office Action, p. 6).

As discussed above, Delmastro does not disclose or suggest the above recitation of claim 11. Wada also does not disclose or suggest this recitation of claim 11. Thus, it is respectfully

submitted that neither Delmastro nor Wada, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests this recitation of claim 11. Because claim 14 depends from and, therefore, includes the limitations of claim 11, it is respectfully submitted that claim 14 is also allowable for at least substantially similar reasons with reference to claim 11 and the Examiner should withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of this claim.

CONCLUSION

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

6/25/08

By: 

Oleg F. Kaplun (Reg. No. 45,559)

Fay Kaplun & Marcin, LLP  
150 Broadway, Suite 702  
New York, NY 10038  
Tel: 212-619-6000  
Fax: 212-619-0276

Appl. No. 10/537,111

Amdt. Dated June 25, 2008

Reply to Non-Final Office Action dated Feb. 26, 2008

Annotated Sheet 1/2

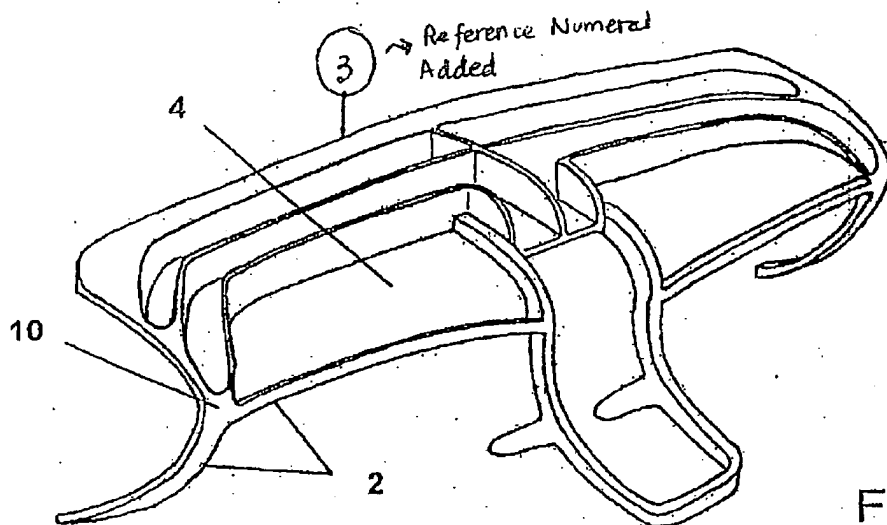


Fig. 1a

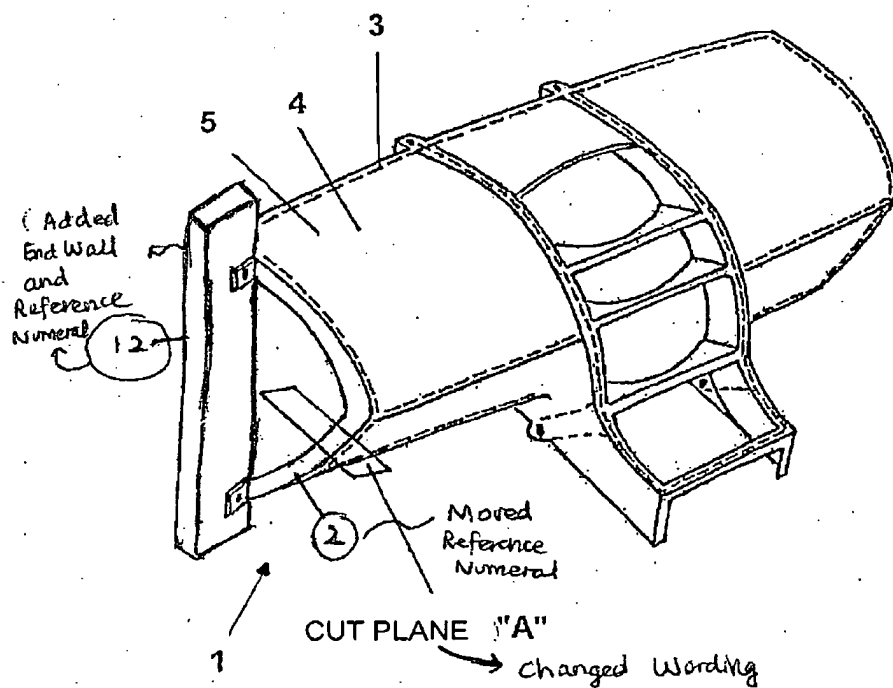


Fig. 1b



Appln. No. 10/537,111.

Amdt. Dated June 25, 2008

Reply to Non-Final Office Action dated Feb. 26, 2008

Annotated Sheet 2/2

Fig. 2

